



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 508

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6541

House of Representatives, April 15, 2013

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GENTILE of the 104th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR HUNTING SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 26-31 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
5 shall formulate conservation courses of instruction in safe trapping,
6 hunting and archery practices and the handling and use of traps and
7 hunting implements, including bow and arrow, for such persons as are
8 applying for a license to hunt with firearms or to hunt with bow and
9 arrow or trap for the first time and for minors who fall within the
10 provisions of section 26-38, and shall designate one or more competent
11 persons or organizations to give such instruction. Any person or
12 organization so designated shall give such instruction online or in a
13 classroom to any person requesting the same and shall, upon the
14 successful completion thereof, recommend to the commissioner

15 issuance of a certificate of completion to such person. Successful
16 completion of such instruction for hunting license applicants shall
17 include, but not be limited to, achieving a passing grade on an
18 examination formulated by the commissioner, which shall include
19 correctly stating in writing, or reciting orally, the regulations for
20 hunting in proximity to buildings occupied by persons or domestic
21 animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials and
22 the regulations for shooting towards persons, buildings or animals.
23 Any such person or organization may charge any person taking the
24 course of instruction in trapping a reasonable fee, established by
25 regulation adopted by the commissioner in accordance with chapter
26 54, to cover the cost of supplies, materials and equipment necessary for
27 such course of instruction. No fee shall be charged for a course of
28 instruction in hunting or archery.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	26-31(a)
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ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill allows hunting safety courses to be provided on-line or in a classroom. Currently, classroom courses are offered free of charge. Annual course costs of approximately \$6,500 incurred to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for supplies and equipment is covered by federal Wildlife Restoration funds. It is anticipated that any costs for on-line courses would be covered by the same federal funds; thus, no fiscal impact is anticipated.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6541

AN ACT CONCERNING ON-LINE EDUCATION OPTIONS FOR HUNTING SAFETY.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows hunting safety courses to be provided on-line or in a classroom. Currently, the courses are provided only in a classroom setting.

By law, the energy and environmental protection commissioner must (1) develop hunting safety courses for hunting license applicants to take and (2) designate people or organizations to provide the courses. The courses must cover safe trapping, hunting and archery practices, and the handling and use of traps and hunting equipment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/25/2013)